Dear Ian; 2/17/75

Very glad to get your second instalment on your successful Zapruder blitz of your subcontinent! You appear to be doing it well and responsibly, the eeconds making you, as you realize, a distinct minority!

And I'm glad to get the copies to have as a record as well as to let me know how and what you are doing.

I'm in the midst of what for me is a large reorganization of my small office to make space for more filing cabinets, so I've less time than the usual little and I'm galled by all the many things that keep me from returning to writing. Things are stacked all around and I even have to walk over and around them. I can't afford to hire anyone to do any of this, either. So, I'll know off for now with one additional comment and will resume when I hear from you again.

When you disaggree with what Gregory is saying about that so-called tramp pictures you should be able to get a glimmer of what troubles me so. Dick is a friend. Rodin also. I'm the godfather of Grodin's son and he originally did that work for me. I rather suspect he has other work that was mine or was done for me by others and that it may soon also be misued. I do not question the intent of either but I do know that both are sadly lacking in the specific knowledge required for responsible comment on the things both address. In addition, I have solid and specific reason for having serious questions about those with whom they are associating. This whole thing has been seriously counterproductive. As I think I've told you I fully expect the spooks to be taking transcripts of these excesses around where it counts and weeping bitter tears over what will then seem credible while they protest being blamed for everything beginning with Original Sin. Showing the film and saying the little that can be told to the people honestly would have had a very good effect, but they've messed that up, too, by making untenable claims. Do, even that is hurtful and denies attention to less than a Gregory with substantial work that stacks. In previous correspondence it is this that you have not agreed with. bespeakingmyour hope rather than the actuality...I can,t and won't destroy my own credibility or that of my work with any such contaminating association. And now that you have achieved decent and responsible attention in Australia, while you lack the spedific knowledge required for the best such judgements, I would again press caution upon you. We can't any of us know all there is to know and none are impervious to error. Care is the only protection we can have. It would be a shame for you to waste the success with what would at best be a triviality and would, I am certain, destroy your credibility even if you pose as an anthologist only.

2/18. Thanks for Prouty exchange. He is one of those with whom I would not associate in print and no offense, one of the measures of your lack of contact with actualities. He is a very personable shit retailer. I will not rip off peoples' minds. And I can't be talked into it. I will not lend credibility to these types whose motive is irrelevant. I have met Prouty. He is personable, articulate and whether or not officially the military's point man against CIA. Only CIA bad, not military, as he puts it.

2/21: Sorry reur not unexpected 2/17. But by now you know I distinguish between your good work with Z and TV & tahlidamide-like anthology project. Shun self-pity and go for self-analysis, devil's advocating your project and the earlier work. Ask yourself if conclusions err, deceive people, can help forces of darkness. Today's headlines confirm my direst on Gregory-Grodin (who've probably learned and fallen silent). All this insane stuff about CIA exculpates them from crimes they did commit. No spiritual generation gap. Problems are responsibility, end results. Choices not necessarily between quitting and not changing approach. Most of the stuff you've read poisoned you mind. It was crap. ...Think you were wrong to turn down new TV requests because you stuck to fact people should know in what you sent me and that I'm all for. This week both Canadian TV nets copped out on Z after govt net showed it because of these wild interpretations and irresponsibilities leading to threats of suits. The Washington TV station that was so courageous and told Time go sue now won't touch subject at all. All because of these needless and counter-productive insanities...Thanks for trying with WMTV. Alternative suggestion, try to see ancillary rights to direct quotes of transcript on CIA perfidy, now topical as hell and nothing more authoritative than Dulles. Angle: how can there be an investigation depending upon the testimony of those to whom perjury is the highest dedication, ultimate patriotism? And if the spooks can't be controlled, can there be meaningful freedom? Their attitudes is modest Hitlerism. They also are

sincere in their outlook. They alone know and understand. The people are ignorant, dangerously outdated in their concept of the modern world (that they have fashioned with this line.)

Whether or not you quite, please think this through as self-critically as you can. It will then do you some good, regardless, and you'll have self-respect and integrity left. We all err. We are better for recognizing it. The political darkness does grow. But we don't shed light by piling mud on. This experience shouldhave been invaluable for you, both aspects. Good for your wife. (Mine locked onto me when I started to go to work at 3 a.m. and didn't let me out of bed until I'd had a good sleep because a tought weekend lies ahead. I'm taping a show with Gregory & both McMillans Sunday in New York and I'll be doing some investigating while I'm there.) She also had you face the situation, which is what I urge in a different way. She had you meet a man's obligations. I also urge that, again in different way. I never seek copies of the work of most of those you mentioned, read it only sometimes when it is sent. They don't know enough to write anything and they invent, persuasively & commercially...The one advantage of years is the experience they make possible drawing upon. Make use of mine for your own benefit. I've levelled with you and not minced words. But not to insult, to open your mind to realities. Don't throw away the good you have done in immature attachment to an abortion. You have no monopoly on faulty judgement. Mine have almost all lain in trusting the untrustworthy, but I continue to trust people and myself & all the adversities I hope you never experience haven't stopped me. Don't let one stop you. Unless you conclude that you can't handle this responsibly. Please also in considering my advise believe that I have lived experiences and political events you have not. Best wishes,